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they were all sold to a Mr. William Everett, of Waltham Abbey, in Essex, a jobber and butcher, at £23. 10s. each; but it was his opinion, at the time of buying them, that the carrot-fed bullocks were thirty shillings per head better than those fed with turnips, a circumstance sufficiently visible to the most common observer.

Expenses of feeding the four beasts with Carrots, from the 28th of November, to the 21st of March, sixteen weeks.

They ate 796 bushels of car- rots, or 47,760lbs. weight, the produce of one acre and eight perches of land, at prime cost of 3½d. per bushel, is.....	10	7	3
— 28 cwt. of hay, at prime cost, of 1s. 6d. per cwt. is £2. 2s.; or the produce of three roods of land.....	2	2	0
	£.12	9	3

*Quantity of Land on which the above four
Bullocks were grazed*

	A.	R.	P.
Carrots,.....	1	0	8
Hay,.....	0	3	0
	1	3	8

Expenses of feeding four Bullocks with Turnips and Hay; against four others fed with Carrots and Hay; from the 28th November, to the 21st March, following.

	£.	s.	d.
They ate 146,496lbs. weight of turnips, the produce of two acres, two roods, four perches of land: prime cost thereof,....	18	4	10
— 36 cwt. of hay, (nine pounds per day each beast,) produce of one acre of land: prime cost.....	2	14	0
	£.20	18	10

*Quantity of Land required to fatten these four
Bullocks, with the above-mentioned articles.*

	A.	R.	P.
Turnips,.....	2	2	4
Hay,.....	1	0	0
	3	2	4

In favour of carrots, one acre, two roods, thirty-six perches, or so much land for the grazier to devote to whatever purposes he pleases; at least the public must be a gainer thereby.

Substitute for Leghorn Plait, for Hats, &c.; by William Corston, of Ludgate Hill. From the transactions of the society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce.

HAVING been honoured, in May 1805, with the gold medal of the society, for a substitute for Leghorn plait for hats, it is with great satisfaction that I am enabled to inform you, that this country is beginning to reap those advantages which I foretold to the society six years ago, and that many hundreds of women and children are employed in the various parts of this kingdom in the manufacture of this article.

I sold to two persons, in less than two months, upwards of 5000 scores, and had an order from a third for 2000. But this bears but a small proportion to the demand, and evinces the truth of the statement I made of the great advantages likely to result from the introduction of this new branch of manufacture into this country.

In Joseph Lancaster's book on Education, I have pointed out farther advantages which may be derived by the country at large, from the cultivation of waste and barren lands for the production of the material of which the British Leghorn is made. This has been proved by experiments which I have made on Bagshot Heath, by favour of the Earl and Countess of Harcourt, and in Bedfordshire, by the benevolence and public spirit of the Duke of Bedford, and on barren land in Norfolk, near my native place. Indeed, no soil can be too barren for this purpose, provided the seed will lay (lie). I have shown that 2000 acres might be annually cultivated in the growth

of this article, and that a quantity of such land might, in succeeding years, be brought into more productive cultivation : but I am afraid that this plan is too simple to be adopted, although I cannot but hope that the agricultural societies of England will turn their attention to a plan which will bring waste lands into cultivation, and also provide employment for thousands of poor children. If government would grant 3000 acres of the land which lies waste on Bagshot Heath for a few years, without any fine, and afterwards on an increasing rent, according to the improvements of the soil, I would raise, in *straw alone*, what should produce an article for industry for which upwards of £20 000 would be paid annually for the employment of poor children. It is a pleasing sight for Englishmen to behold the superb buildings which are appropriated as asylums for the children of our soldiers and sailors ; but in times like these, how desirable is it that buildings of only one story high should be erected in populous parishes, which might answer the double purpose of schools of industry and instruction, and thereby relieve parishes from the burthen of the maintenance of poor children, and also bring them up in habits of industry and sobriety. In this way thousands of children maybe employed from seven years of age, until they arrive at an age sufficiently advanced to go out as servants.

As by the mere invention of the *splitting of a straw*, a source of employment has been discovered, which has increased the returns in that branch not less than 3 to £400,000 annually. I feel myself urged to call the attention of the discerning part of the public to a new branch of industry, which I make no doubt will in a very few years, add nearly an equal sum to the national indus-

try, and also be a great means of bringing into cultivation thousands of acres of land now lying waste. Since the introduction of spinning by hand, no source of employment has been discovered which promises to afford occupation to so many thousands ; spinning by hand has been superseded by the invention of machinery, but I believe it to be impossible for machinery to absorb this branch of manual industry ; the only spindles, wheels, or bobbins engaged in this work, will be, I trust, the fingers of little children.

Some persons may endeavour to cast a shade over these expectations by considering the prevalent attachment to the wear of straw hats as the whim of the day ; but I believe that the superior comfort, in summer weather, arising from the wear of a light hat in preference to a heavy one, will induce gentlemen more and more to make use of the British leghorn ; and as to the predilection of ladies for hats manufactured of split straw, I think I hazard very little in considering that as established ; and when to our home-consumption is added a consideration of the demand for the East and West Indies, the coast of the Mediterranean, and South America, I think myself very safe in asserting, that these manufactures will employ not less than 60,000 children.

Our poor's rates amount to more than £5,000,000 *per annum* ; and there can be no remedy for so great a burthen equal to the setting the children of the poor to work, so that they shall earn their own bread, instead of being chargeable to the parish. It is true, that the demand for straw plait has caused an increased quantity to be made ; yet the demand is still superior to the quantity ; and in the spring the price

often advances from thirty to fifty *per cent.* beyond its fair value, even allowing sufficient profit to the poor employed, and the dealer in the article. I believe, therefore, that this branch of manufacture is still in its infancy, and that it is likely to have great permanency; and although it may by some be considered as an insignificant source of revenue, yet when it is considered that Providence has given us the means of improving the agricultural state of the kingdom, in raising the raw materials, and that so many thousands of our poor may be employed in its manufacture, I trust that every assistance will be afforded to so extraordinary a source of national wealth.

If any person should doubt my arguments, I will beg leave to state a fact in confirmation of my positions. I had once the curiosity to put into the scale some straw I was about to sell, and I found that it netted upwards of twenty-three pounds sterling per pound weight. If, therefore, an article, which in its unmanufactured state is considered as of little worth, can, merely by the industry of children, be rendered so valuable, I think I risk very little in affirming, that by the encouragement of the British Leghorn, together with that of *split straw*, we gain a sure means of bringing our waste and barren lands into cultivation, and by the employment of our poor children we acquire an infallible means of greatly diminishing our poor's rates.

In order that the British plait may equal the Italian in fineness, I particularly recommend that the rye should be sown on the most waste and barren land, without any reference to its produce, but merely of the straw, the sale of which would afford ample remuneration; and I should be happy to take the produce of from fifty to one hundred acres

of such land, provided it lay convenient to the place of manufactory. By such means the most unproductive wastes will become valuable, and a great source of advantage opened for the employment of young children, and persons incapable of hard work.

An opportunity is thus afforded for benevolent persons to build cheap schools in villages, and assemble the children of the poor together, to whom literary instruction might be given, and the children enabled to earn their own bread; and the whole effected at a trifling expense.

I flatter myself that it will give pleasure to the Society, to find that I have not neglected an object which has merited their attention, and which will be the means of saving immense sums to this country, which have heretofore been sent abroad, for the purchase of an article which our poorest lands and feeblest people can furnish.

Method of Irrigation practised in the Gardens of Bologna.

(From the Journal de Sonini.)

Of the various methods of irrigation, the preference ought to be given to those which afford to the plants the moisture they require, without exposing them to the risk of perishing, from a too great abundance of water. The mode practised by the gardeners in the neighbourhood of Bologna has this advantage.

The gardens of this canton are divided into many squares, called *vanizes*, commonly from eighteen to twenty palms broad, and of an undetermined length, without, however, being too large, in order that they may receive the slope necessary for their irrigation in a country where water is very scarce.

Each square of the garden is pla-